

## Exemptions that may only be claimed on a tax return

- **Coverage is considered unaffordable** - The minimum amount you would have paid for employer-sponsored coverage or a bronze level health plan (depending on your circumstances) is more than a certain percentage of your actual household income for the year as computed on your tax return. Also see "Coverage considered unaffordable based on projected income," listed below, which provides a prospective exemption granted by the Marketplace if the minimum amount you would have paid for coverage is more than a certain percentage of your projected household income for the year.
- **Short coverage gap** - You went without coverage for less than three consecutive months during the year. For more information, see question 22 of our questions and answers.
- **Income below the return filing threshold** - Your gross income or your household income is less than your applicable minimum threshold for filing a tax return. Learn more about household income.
- **Citizens living abroad and certain noncitizens** - You are:
  - A U.S. citizen or a resident alien who was physically present in a foreign country or countries for at least 330 full days during any period of 12-consecutive months;
  - A U.S. citizen who was a bona fide resident of a foreign country or countries for an uninterrupted period which includes an entire tax year;
  - A bona fide resident of a U.S. territory;
  - A resident alien who was a citizen or national of a foreign country with which the U.S. has an income tax treaty with a nondiscrimination clause, and you were a bona fide resident of a foreign country for an uninterrupted period that includes an entire tax year;
  - Not lawfully present in the U.S. and not a U.S. citizen, or U.S. national (for this purpose, an immigrant with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status is not considered lawfully present and therefore is eligible for this exemption);
  - A nonresident alien, including (1) a dual-status alien in the first year of U.S. residency and (2) a nonresident alien or dual-status alien who elects to file a joint return with a U.S. spouse; or
  - An individual who files Form 1040-NR, U.S. Nonresident Alien Income Tax Return, or Form 1040-NR-EZ, U.S. Income Tax Return for Certain Nonresident Aliens with No Dependents (including a dual-status tax return for your last year of U.S. residency), or you are claimed as a personal exemption on one of those forms.
  - If you meet one of these conditions, you qualify for this exemption even if you have a Social Security number (SSN).

- **Aggregate self-only coverage considered unaffordable** - Two or more family members' aggregate cost of self-only employer-sponsored coverage is more than a certain percentage of your actual household income, as does the cost of any available employer-sponsored coverage for the entire family.
- **Resident of a state that did not expand Medicaid** - Your household income is below 138 percent of the federal poverty line for your family size and at any time during the year you reside in a state that does not participate in Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. (States that did not expand Medicaid for all of 2017: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.)
- **Members of a health care sharing ministry** - You are a member of a health care sharing ministry, which is an organization described in section 501(c)(3) whose members share a common set of ethical or religious beliefs and have shared medical expenses in accordance with those beliefs continuously since at least December 31, 1999.
- **Members of Indian Tribes** - You are a member of a Federally-recognized Indian tribe, including an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporation Shareholder (regional or village), or you were otherwise eligible for services through an Indian health care provider or the Indian Health Service.
- **Incarceration** - You are in a jail, prison, or similar penal institution or correctional facility after the disposition of charges.

## Exemptions that may only be granted by a Marketplace

- **Members of certain religious sects** – The Marketplace determined that you are a member of a religious sect in existence since December 31, 1950, that is recognized by the Social Security Administration (SSA) as conscientiously opposed to accepting any insurance benefits, including Medicare and Social Security.
- **General hardship** – The Marketplace determined that you experienced circumstances that prevented you from obtaining coverage under a qualified health plan, including, but not limited to, homelessness, eviction, foreclosure, domestic violence, death of a close family member, and unpaid medical bills. Learn more about the criteria for this exemption.
- **Coverage considered unaffordable based on projected income** – The Marketplace determined that you do not have access to coverage that is considered affordable based on your projected household income.
- **Determined ineligible for Medicaid in a state that did not expand Medicaid coverage** – The Marketplace found that you would have been determined ineligible for Medicaid solely because the State in which you live does not participate in Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act.

## General hardship :

1. You were homeless
2. You were evicted or were facing eviction or foreclosure
3. You received a shut-off notice from a utility company
4. You experienced domestic violence
5. You experienced the death of a family member
6. You experienced a fire, flood, or other natural or human-caused disaster that caused substantial damage to your property
7. You filed for bankruptcy
8. You had medical expenses you couldn't pay that resulted in substantial debt
9. You experienced unexpected increases in necessary expenses due to caring for an ill, disabled, or aging family member
10. You claim a child as a tax dependent who's been denied coverage for Medicaid and CHIP for 2017, and another person is required by court order to give medical support to the child. In this case you don't have to pay the penalty for the child.
11. As a result of an eligibility appeals decision, you're eligible for enrollment in a qualified health plan (QHP) through the Marketplace, lower costs on your monthly premiums, or cost-sharing reductions for a time period when you weren't enrolled in a QHP through the Marketplace in 2016
12. You were determined ineligible for Medicaid because your state didn't expand eligibility for Medicaid in 2017 under the Affordable Care Act
13. Your "grandfathered" individual insurance plan (a plan you've had since March 23, 2010 or before) was canceled because it doesn't meet the requirements of the Affordable Care Act and you believe other Marketplace plans are unaffordable
14. You had another hardship. If you experienced another hardship obtaining health insurance, use this form to describe your hardship and apply for an exemption.

Sources: <https://www.irs.gov/affordable-care-act/individuals-and-families/aca-individual-shared-responsibility-provision-exemptions>

<https://www.healthcare.gov/health-coverage-exemptions/hardship-exemptions/>